

Montane Ecuador

Jay VanderGaast

Do you remember the first time you saw mountains? For those of us who grew up in the flatlands, it was often as not as a child on a family trip...and it was a revelation. As we prepped this issue of the newsletter and asked Jay to give us a taste of the Ecuadorian Andes, he couldn't help but think of his first mountains. "I was ten years old, and we loaded up in our station wagon in the wee hours of morning and drove west, where, as the sun rose behind us, we had our first glimpse of the Rockies. From that initial view I was hooked. The vistas were spectacular, the air clear and pure, but for me there was something more. I knew those mountains were home to all sorts of birds I had seen only in the field guide, from striking Harlequin Ducks shooting the rapids of a crystal clear river to American Dippers hopping from rock to rock along the shore and Varied Thrushes calling from treetops. To this day, some of the mountain birds we saw are among my favorites." If you haven't yet seen the Andes, imagine your first mountains and multiply their birding treasures by ten—a whole new revelation lies ahead.

Years after my first view of towering peaks, I'm still filled with anticipation before a trip to the mountains, but for some time now it's not the Rockies but the Andes, particularly the Ecuadorian Andes, that have been my destination. And, of course, it's still mainly about the birds. Ducks still shoot the rapids of mountain rivers, but here they are Torrent Ducks rather than Harlequins; dippers still patrol the stream sides, but here they have white caps; and the calls emanating from the treetops belong to Glossy-black, not Varied, Thrushes. As for the hummingbirds, jays, finches, and tanagers, the species differ—and there are many, many more of them!

On Ecuador's West Slope, a visit to the high temperate forests at Yanacocha might yield as many as 10 species of hummingbirds, from the dainty Purple-backed Thornbill to the unbelievable Sword-billed, while Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Mountain Velvetbreast, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, and Green-tailed Trainbearer are among the other species possible. Noisy groups of Turquoise Jays bound through the stunted treetops, Yellow-breasted Brush-Finches skulk through the dense shrubbery below, and a trio of incredible mountain-tanagers—Scarlet-bellied, Hooded, and the scarce Black-chested—scour the forested slopes. Drop a few thousand feet down into the Tandayapa region and the cast changes dramatically. Hummingbirds and tanagers are particularly well represented—Gorgeted Sunangel, Violet-tailed Sylph, Velvet-purple Coronet, and Empress Brilliant among the evocatively named hummers. The tanagers are so diverse that there are three different "green" tanagers alone (Grass-green, Metallic-green, and Glistening-green)!

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Three jewels of the Ecuadorian Andes below the towering Cotopaxi volcano—the once difficult-to-see White-bellied Antpitta; a pair of male Booted Racket-tails in a face-off; and a vibrant Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager. (Photos by participants Jason Leifester & Yvonne Bombardier and guides Richard Webster & Mitch Lysinger)

2013 Schedule Inside (5 new tours)

Busy it has been as we put the finishing touches on our **2013 schedule** and guide assignments (pages 9-11). And among those guides? Two guys who've quickly become very popular mainstays in our schedule, **Marcelo Padua** and **Willy Perez** (did you see the back page of this issue?). And we're really pumped that **Pepe Rojas**, who's co-led a half-dozen tours with us over the years, is now in the 2013 schedule full-time—check out page 2 for more. It's all about great guides in the field, and the FG tradition continues!

Latin Movie Star Joins the Cast at Field Guides!

Rose Ann Rowlett

Grabbed your eye, didn't we! Well, it's true. The newest member of our cast played the "lead role" in the first episode of the BBC documentary *Wild and Dangerous: Birdman of the Amazon*—that's got The Big Year beat hands down! Truth be told, he was simply "acting" himself, but since we're all about reality (though of course we're all fulfilling a lot of birding fantasies!) and rave reviews on our tours from "shorts" to "full-length features," that's the role that's most important to us—and why he'll soon be co-starring on our tours from Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia to Oaxaca, Puerto Rico, Texas, and Alaska! A few lucky ones among you already know him, and now let's have Rose Ann (the "Grebe") introduce our man to his future fans...

Pepe Rojas got hooked on birds early. A native of Peru, he grew up in Lima, where the mellow, haunting calls of West Peruvian Doves absolutely fill the air, punctuated periodically by the explosive croaks of the (well-named) Croaking Ground-Doves. Who wouldn't get hooked? (Come to think of it, I guess most of Lima's some seven million inhabitants couldn't really be considered "hooked" on birds.) But Pepe was exceptional even then.

Somewhere along the way—maybe it was during his undergraduate studies in forestry management, or maybe it was after he first volunteered as a field researcher on the Tambopata Macaw Project in the Madre de Dios of southeastern Peru—he mastered tree-climbing and became invaluable as a student of nesting macaws. After three macaw breeding seasons at Tambopata Research Station (TRC), he was hopelessly in love with Amazonia. (Admittedly, he diverted for six months to the Beni in Bolivia to do field research on the Blue-throated Macaw. But then it was back to the rainforest, where he would end up living for most of the next 10 years.)

Back at TRC, in May 1996, he assisted filmmakers in the production of "Manu: Peru's Hidden Rainforest" for the series "The Living Edens." By now he was skilled at constructing blinds and canopy platforms, using climbing equipment to erect and monitor nest boxes, managing mist nets and banding programs, and organizing food and support for field expeditions into remote sections of the rainforest. His fluency in Spanish, English, and Brazilian Portuguese didn't hurt, and his considerable field skills were tailor-made for assisting filmmakers and wildlife photographers.

By 1997, Pepe had become the Field Co-Director for the Tambopata Macaw Project and the Lodge Manager for TRC, and it was during this period that Dave (Stejskal, aka "Roadrunner") and I met Pepe. Field Guides had extended our traditional Explorer's Inn tour to include a stay at the Tambopata Research Center, well upriver from Explorer's Inn and perched on the cut bank of the Rio Tambopata, just above the biggest known macaw lick. Not only was



the macaw-lick phenomenon absolutely stunning, but our "local guide" (Pepe Rojas) blew us away. It wasn't as much for his considerable knowledge of the rainforest, the birds, and the area, but for his personality—his easy warmth and enthusiasm. He knew intuitively when a participant needed a hand, either physically or with spotting a bird, and he was always right there to help—and to help in such a way that we were always convinced he was having great fun doing it. His quick wit, his modesty, and his glowing smile charmed participants and co-leaders alike. Our participants all fell in love with Pepe.

Among the many things I learned from Pepe on those early tours was how to take shelter behind a big trunk to avoid being marred by a herd of (predator-freaked?) stampeding White-lipped Peccaries! Yes, you could hear them coming, especially by their tooth snapping, and you could smell where they had

been, for some time afterward, by the scent of ammonia hanging in the humid air. On one tour, our small group wanted to view the palm swamp from atop a sturdy viewing platform that had been built to monitor a nest of Blue-and-yellow Macaws. On that morning Pepe produced from his daypack (which sometimes was filled with hot trail lunches for the whole group!) a harness and pulleys and managed to heft each of us, one at a time, up to the platform for eye-level viewing! It was my first experience with tree-climbing techniques. Then, of course, there were the poison-dart frogs, the fascinating invertebrates, and the many plants Pepe taught us about. And that's not to mention the birds.

The most recent tour I've co-led with Pepe was our 2007 *Peruvian Rainforests: The Southeast* tour. Having learned that our flight to Amazonia had been cancelled (even as we arrived in Lima), Pepe had already arranged to have us rebooked on the next possible flight (the following day) and to have a vehicle to take us birding for the day, substituting the Lomas de Lachay for our original destination. We had a wonderful day at the Lomas—exactly where I would have picked for this group! And it was followed by another fabulous rainforest immersion. In 2009 he guided another of our tours, this time to Manu Wildlife Center. He was still drawing rave reviews, both from participants and from his co-leader, John Rowlett (the "Peppershrike").

By 2009 Pepe had guided some half-dozen Field Guides tours, co-leading with Peppershrike and



Roadrunner, as well as myself. He had done field research in ornithology, been involved in film-making and teaching, gotten married (to his lovely wife, Abby), gone back to school—this time in ecology and evolution at UC Santa Cruz—and become a US citizen. And he still wanted to guide full-time for Field Guides. We invited him to our annual meeting in Arizona last summer, where he could meet most of the rest of the team. We worked and played together intensively for four days, and by the end of the meeting, we *all* agreed he would make a wonderful full-time guide. Perhaps more significantly, his desire to become a full-time Field Guide survived the meeting with full enthusiasm!

Pepe plans to complete his degree at Santa Cruz by the end of 2012. Until then, his tour time is limited, and he'll be guiding only one tour, again with the Peppershrike to his native Peru: PERU'S MAGNETIC NORTH, June 30-July 10, 2012. But, take heart: Pepe is scheduled for a full slate of tours in 2013! Welcome to the full-time cast, Pepe, and here's to our long-continued and rewarding association—we are certain there are many, many hit tours ahead!

PEPE ROJAS IN 2013

Oaxaca, Mexico, Jan 19-26 with

Megan Crewe

Jewels of Ecuador Feb 8-25 with

Mitch Lysinger

Puerto Rico, Mar 24-30 with

George Armistead

Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country,

Apr 20-29 with Chris Benesh

Alaska, May 29-Jun 6 & Jun 5-15

with Megan Crewe

Peru's Magnetic North, Jun 27-Jul 6

with Dan Lane

Mountains of Manu, Peru, Jul 13-28

with Rose Ann Rowlett

Peruvian Rainforests, Jul 27-Aug 9

with Dave Stejskal

Bolivia's Avian Riches, Sep 7-22

with Dan Lane

Northern Peru, Nov 3-23 with

Richard Webster

Holiday in Peru, Dec 2-Jan 1 with

Dan Lane

Montane Ecuador

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Switch to the East Slope and it all changes yet again. New hummingbirds appear at every stop—Ecuadorian Hillstar and Blue-mantled Thornbill in the lofty heights of Papallacta Pass, Tourmaline Sunangel and the rare Mountain Avocetbill in the cloud forest, and Bronzy Inca and Chestnut-breasted Coronet at San Isidro Lodge. Pale-naped, White-browed, and Slaty brush-finches lurk in the undergrowth, Green Jays boldly scarf insects around the lights. And the tanagers? Again, they're incredible, with the likes of White-capped, Red-hooded, and Flame-faced, Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager, and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager among the many, many possibilities.

In addition to familiar groups like these, there are many others that never figure in to a visit to the Rockies. These include toucans (three species of mountain-toucans, anyone?) coingas (think Andean Cock-of-the-rock and various fruiteaters), tapaculos (including the stunning Ocellated), and antpittas (habituated Peruvian Antpittas now coming for worms at San Isidro!). Add in all kinds of woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, and flycatchers (more species than you can even imagine!) and it's pretty clear that those one-day mountain trips of my youth just won't cut it here! Even a ten-day trip like our *Montane Ecuador* tour only scratches the surface of what these mountains have to offer, but it is a pretty great start. Our guides always want to get back. Isn't it about time you planned a visit to the mountains?

If you'd like to experience for yourself the wonders of the Ecuadorian Andes, Field Guides is offering two Montane Ecuador tours this summer:

June 8-17 with Mitch Lysinger

July 19-28 with Willy Perez

For details, call our office or visit our web site, where you may download a detailed tour itinerary.



Two common honeyeaters of the New Guinea highlands, the Belford's Melidectes and the Common Smoky Honeyeater. One's two-faced, yet the other's the bad guy. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory and participant Colin Campbell)

Bel-Mel & the Blushing Bird

Jay VanderGaast

Someone in the group has detected some movement, so we're peering intently into a cluster of dense foliage in the highlands of New Guinea...you know, the kind you've likely become familiar with birding various tropical places in your birding travels. The rewards of birding New Guinea are undeniably great, but the place does seem to have an inordinate number of super-skulkers. Could this be one of them? Perhaps a Wattled Ploughbill (cool), a Crested Satinbird (super-cool), a Plum-faced Lorikeet (lovely)? We peer and crane and, a few seconds later, out it pops! "Oh," someone calls out in a somewhat frustrated tone, "just another Bel-mel" or "just another Smoky."

On Day 1 of the tour the brash Belford's Melidectes and the smaller Common Smoky Honeyeater are a big deal...they're lifers, after all! By Day 5, on the other hand, most of us are ready to exterminate the widespread Bel-mel...it creates too many distractions from all those other new birds we're looking for! Somehow, though, the Smoky Honeyeater comes off all but scot-free. And why is that? Well, it all boils down to this: the honeyeater has an endearing habit that birders swoon over—it blushes.

When a smoky honeyeater gets agitated, its normally yellow facial skin instantly flushes to a fiery red. Once you've witnessed this reaction, it's usually the case that all previous obnoxious behavior is forgiven and forgotten—which leaves the melidectes as the lone bad guy. There is, however, a delicious irony here. Smoky Honeyeaters are regulars at feeders at places like Kumul Lodge, where—because they are easily agitated while at the feeders—it's possible to see them blush. But, it's the approach of a melidectes that is the usual source of their agitation, so it's the melidectes that causes the blush.

If you visit Kumul Lodge yourself, perhaps on one of our Papua New Guinea tours this summer, keep a close eye on the Smoky Honeyeaters and you may very well see one blush. And when you do, don't forget to cut the Bel-mel a little slack!

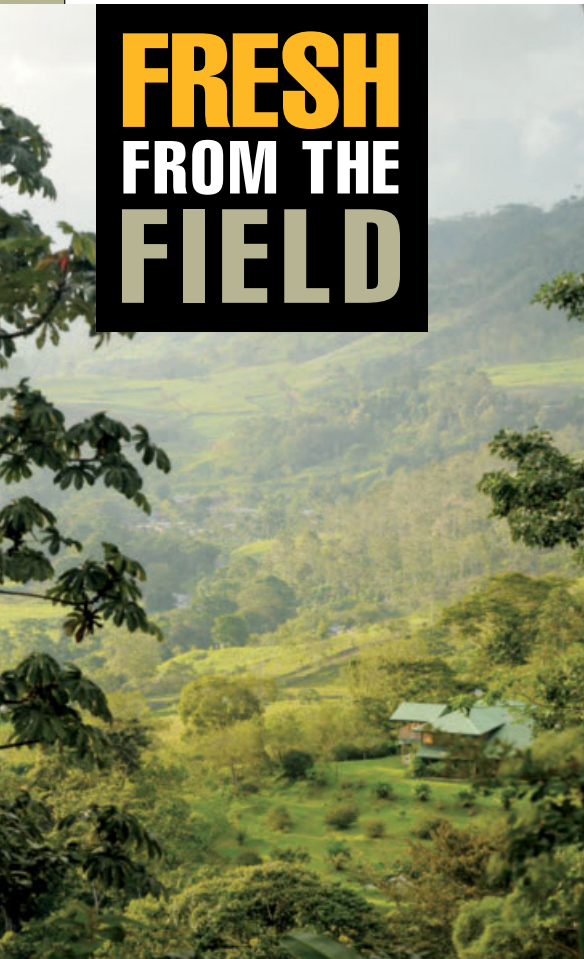
2012 tours are scheduled for June 27-July 15 with Phil Gregory and July 11-29 with Dave Stejskal.

FRESH FROM THE FIELD

How about waking up each morning to this gorgeous view? Join one of our **Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista** tours and you can do just that. Added bonuses: lots of great birds at the feeders, such as this Chestnut-headed Oropendola, plus a couple of great guides to help point them out, Jesse Fagan (right) and local guide Cali Rodriguez. (Photos by participant Daphne Gemmill and guide Jesse Fagan)



Our **Colombia: The Cauca Valley & Western & Central Andes** tour features a good number of endemics, including the recently-described Munchique Wood-Wren at lower right, as well as many regional specialties; and it's a great tour to see more widespread birds that are generally difficult elsewhere—among them the superb Red-ruffed Fruitcrow at top and the lovely Purplish-mantled Tanager at lower left. (Photos by guide Richard Webster)



Tour participant Greg Griffith sent in these super images from our recent tour to **Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta**. One of the undisputed highlights was a lengthy encounter with a male of the rare and local Recurve-billed Bushbird seen above right, while birds such as the Black-collared Jay above and the brilliant endemic White-tailed Starfrontlet at right were among the many other wonderful finds on this tour.



A visit to **Madagascar** is always full of memorable experiences. Folks on our most recent tour were transfixed by the ninja moves of Verreaux's Sifaka (above), stalked the elusive Long-tailed Ground-Roller (below left) in the spiny forest of the southwest, and were serenaded by the mournful and far-carrying calls of the Cuckoo-Roller (below right), a bird so unique it's in a family all its own. (Photos by guide Phil Gregory)





What the Pacific coast lacks in snow, it makes up for in Snow Geese; above, just a small number of the roughly 50,000 we saw on our inaugural **Best of the Pacific Northwest** tour. Raptors also figured in our totals; this Rough-legged Hawk was one of hundreds of diurnal raptors recorded. Birding at twilight also netted the group views of a good number of Short-eared Owls. (Photos by guide Terry McEneaney)



Oh man! Our **Oman & the UAE: Birding Arabia** trip showcased some superb desert birding including several regional specialties: a curious female Tristram's Starling in the lovely Dhofar region of Oman (above), the native White-spectacled Bulbul (upper right), and the Arabian Babbler, an endemic of the Arabian Peninsula. We'll return in 2013, January 10-26. (Photos by guide George Armistead)



Why call a tour **Jewels of Ecuador**? Could it be for the emerald green of the dainty male Wire-crested Thorntail at left? Or the brilliant garnet throat patch of the Purple-throated Fruitcrow at lower left? We think it's for the glowing amethyst of a Velvet-purple Coronet's crown and belly (below), but you should come along and decide for yourself! (Photos by tour participants Mike Healey & Yvonne Bombardier and guide David Geale)



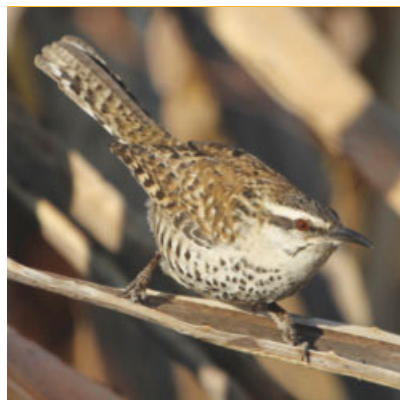
FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Sacha Lodge in the lowlands of eastern Ecuador has a lot to offer, as these images from our second of four **Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge** tours show. Clay lick with swarms of Cobalt-winged Parakeets and Orange-cheeked Parrots—check; canoe rides through flooded varzea forest—check; canopy towers offering eye-to-eye views of canopy species such as Moustached Antwrens—check! It's no wonder we offer 4 of these trips per year! (Photos by guide Dan Lane)



Ringling in the New Year at **Panama's Canopy Lodge at El Valle**, Chris Benesh and his group enjoyed a fabulous week of birding. Chris provided these photos of just a few of the tour highlights. Clockwise from below, a fierce Aplomado Falcon scans the surrounding grasslands for an unwary target, a Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer takes a rest between visits to the hummingbird feeders, and one of a pair of Tropical Screech-Owls turns its sleepy gaze on those who dared to interrupt its snooze.



The Mexican state of Oaxaca is a wonderful place to spend a week, and our **Oaxaca** tour is a perennial favorite. It's not hard to understand why: take a healthy dose of Mexican endemics, such as the Boucard's Wren above, add in a handful of northern Central American specialties, like the Golden-browed Warbler to the right, then add some mouth-watering Oaxacan food, some amazing Zapotec ruins, and you have all the elements for an enjoyable winter escape! (Photos by guide Chris Benesh)





The best way to get an idea of what our **Northern Peru: Endemics Galore** tour is like is to be surrounded by endemics, and that's what we have here. At top is the near-mythical Long-whiskered Owlet, now a very real possibility, while below, a striking Black-necked Woodpecker and a skulking Rufous-eared Brush-Finch, just two of the many other endemic possibilities. (Photos by guide Richard Webster)



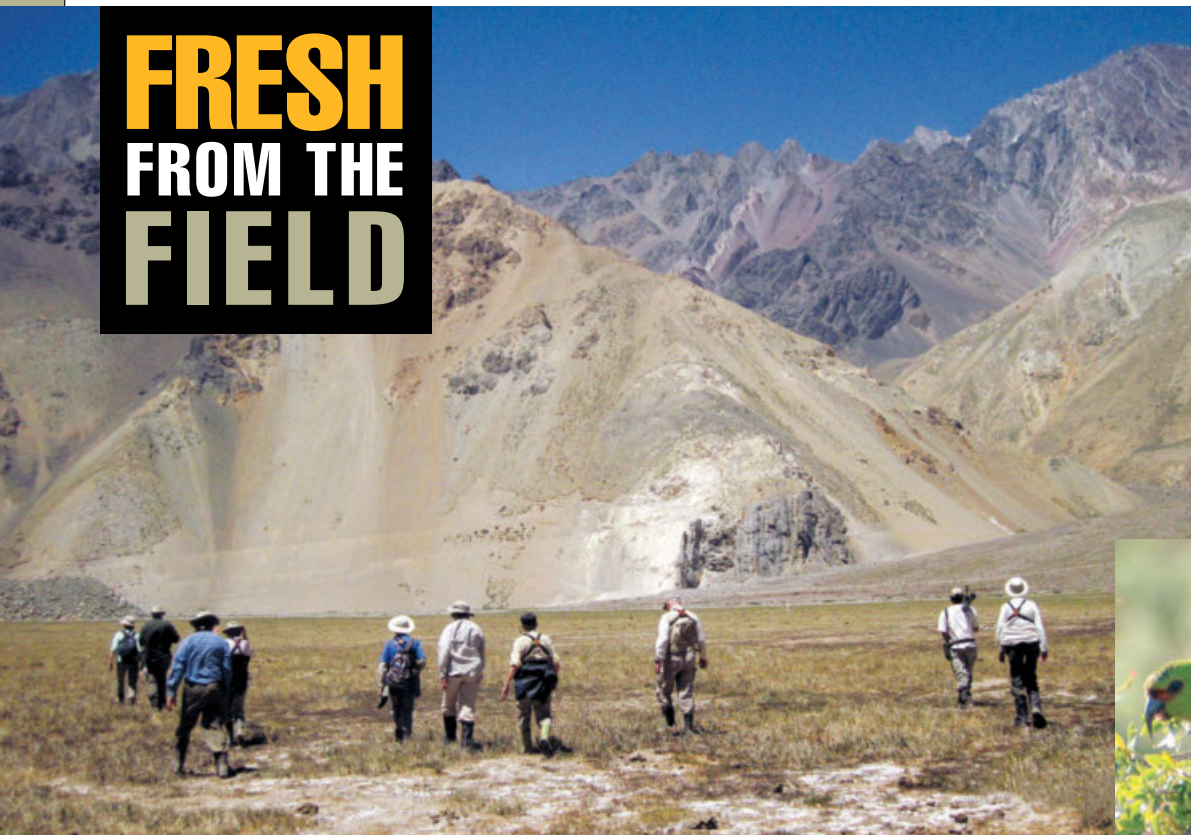
New Caledonia and Fiji are longtime destinations for us, and in 2011 we wove in Vanuatu to create a brand new itinerary named (of course!) **New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu**. With such incredible endemics as Fiji's stunning Orange Dove and New Caledonia's remarkable Kagu (in a family of its own), both pictured below, it's a safe bet that this tour will become a regular fixture on our schedule! (Photos by tour participant Gil Ewing and guide Phil Gregory)



The birds we see on our **Thailand** tour are a lot like the country's food—spicy and exotic. There are familiar dishes with an Asian twist, like the beautiful Brown-winged Kingfisher at right, and others that are completely new and foreign—the Chestnut-tailed Minla (upper right) and Silver-eared Mesia (lower) being just two examples. It all leaves us rather envious of whatever the happy group below has just seen, as well as whatever they're eating! Anyone for Thai food (and birds) in 2013? (Photos by guide Dave Stejskal)



FRESH FROM THE FIELD



Where are these birders heading? This is our group on guide Peter Burke's recent **Heart of Chile** tour at a montane site known as El Yeso, searching for the incomparable Diademed Sandpiper-Plover as well as one of the three birds to the right. If you guessed the Gray-breasted Seedsnipe in the center photo, you'd be correct. They also saw the Northern Royal Albatross at top on the pelagic tour off Valparaiso and found the endemic Slender-billed Parakeet at bottom in forest habitat near the coastal city of Puerto Montt. (Photos by guide Peter Burke)



After a brief hiatus, our **Arizona Winter Specialties** tour was back on the schedule in 2011! Among the many high points, the sight of thousands of Sandhill Cranes (above) in the Sulphur Springs Valley surely has to rank near the top. An interesting hybrid sapsucker, apparently a Red-naped X Red-breasted (upper right) was a cool find, while a half a dozen Merlins (lower right) were about twice as many as one would normally hope for. Photos by guide Dave Stejskal, whom you can join for a reprise later this year, December 28-January 2.

2013 TOURS

JANUARY 2013

Nowhere but Northeast Brazil (Part I)
Oman & the UAE: Birding Arabia I
Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge I
Yellowstone in Winter
Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley & Santa Marta
Thailand
NEW South Texas Rarities
Panama's Canopy Tower I
Oaxaca
Colombia: The Cauca Valley, Western & Central Andes
Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas I
Northern India
Nowhere but Northeast Brazil (Part II)

Jan 8-25	Marcelo Padua & Dan Lane
Jan 10-26	Phil Gregory
Jan 11-20	Willy Perez
Jan 12-20	Terry McEneaney & Karen McEneaney
Jan 12-28	Jesse Fagan
Jan 12-Feb 2	Dave Stejskal & Uthai Treesucon
Jan 18-24	Chris Benesh
Jan 19-25	John Coons
Jan 19-26	Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas
Jan 19-Feb 4	Richard Webster
Jan 19-Feb 5	Rose Ann Rowlett & Willy Perez
Jan 19-Feb 10	Terry Stevenson
Jan 23-Feb 8	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua

FEBRUARY 2013

Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas II
Best of the Pacific Northwest
Winter Japan: Cranes & Sea Eagles
Guatemala: Temples of Tikal
Trinidad & Tobago
Belize
Guatemala: Shade-grown Birding
Panama's Canopy Tower II
Cambodia

Feb 1-18	Mitch Lysinger & Pepe Rojas
Feb 2-7	Terry McEneaney
Feb 7-23	Phil Gregory
Feb 15-21	Jesse Fagan
Feb 15-24	Megan Crewe
Feb 17-23	Peter Burke & John Coons
Feb 20-Mar 2	Jesse Fagan
Feb 23-Mar 1	Chris Benesh
Feb 23-Mar 7	Phil Gregory

"This was a great experience! I really liked Willy Perez and his guiding style. Willy was great about telling us what birds he was calling, where they should show up, and reminding us how they looked and acted. After two Field Guides tours with two superior guides, Jesse Fagan and Willy Perez, my problem now is deciding which of their tours to take next!" P.R., Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge

MARCH 2013

Honduras: Land of the Emeralds
Brazil Nutshell: Atlantic Forest, Iguazu Falls & the Pantanal
Birding Plus Egypt
Philippines
Southwestern Ecuador Specialties: Jocotoco Foundation Reserves
Bahamas: Birds & Butterflies
Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge
Borneo I
Colombia: Santa Marta Escape
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes I
Spring in South Texas
Birding Plus Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina
Ghana
Puerto Rico
Lesser Antilles

Mar 2-10	Jesse Fagan
Mar 2-16	Marcelo Padua & John Coons
Mar 2-19	Terry Stevenson & local guide
Mar 2-24	Dave Stejskal & local guide
Mar 7-21	Mitch Lysinger
Mar 12-17	Jesse Fagan
Mar 15-25	Willy Perez
Mar 15-Apr 1	Rose Ann Rowlett & local guide
Mar 16-24	Richard Webster
Mar 16-31	Megan Crewe & local guide
Mar 17-24	Jesse Fagan
Mar 17-31	John Rowlett
Mar 23-31	Chris Benesh
Mar 23-Apr 6	Marcelo Padua
Mar 23-Apr 8	Phil Gregory & local guide
Mar 24-30	George Armistead & Pepe Rojas
Mar 30-Apr 13	Jesse Fagan

"An outstanding experience. Two superb and dedicated guides in Phil Gregory and Terry Stevenson and the wonderful support from the great local guides, drivers, and assistants..." B.G., Ghana

Rainbow Starfrontlet (Photographed in Peru by Richard Webster)

2013 TOURS

APRIL 2013

Namibia & Botswana

Hawaii

Bhutan

Colorado Grouse I

Texas Coast Migration Spectacle I

Colorado Grouse II

Texas Coast Migration Spectacle II

Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country

Birding Plus Scotland: Famous Grouse in the Land of Whisky

Arizona Nightbirds & More I

Apr 2-21

Apr 6-15

Apr 6-25

Apr 7-17

Apr 13-19

Apr 13-23

Apr 20-26

Apr 20-29

Apr 20-May 1

Apr 25-29

Terry Stevenson

George Armistead & second guide

Richard Webster

Dan Lane & second guide

John Coons

Megan Crewe & second guide

John Coons

Chris Benesh & Pepe Rojas

John Rowlett & local guide

Dave Stejskal

"A wonderful experience from beginning to end. I'd go again tomorrow. The best features were the expertise of our guides, Bret Whitney and Marcelo Padua, knowing that we saw birds that were tough to get, like all the possible tapaculos in the area, and the beauty of Brazil. Before the trip I thought that the tour's name might be hyperbole. It's not."

J.C., Spectacular Southeast Brazil

MAY 2013

Spain: La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura

Ethiopia

Arizona Nightbirds & More II

Birding Plus Ireland in Spring

Arizona: Birding the Border I

Point Pelee Migration Spectacle

Arizona: Birding the Border II

Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas

Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt

Alaska I - Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)

May 3-14

May 3-23

May 9-13

May 9-19

May 10-19

May 11-18

May 17-26

May 23-Jun 13

May 25-Jun 7

May 29-Jun 6

Megan Crewe & Willy Perez

Richard Webster & Phil Gregory

Chris Benesh

Terry McEneaney & local guide

John Coons

Peter Burke

Chris Benesh

Terry Stevenson & second guide

Bret Whitney

Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas

JUNE 2013

NEW Northern Arizona's Canyons & Condors

Alaska II - Part One (Pribilofs & Denali)

Alaska I - Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)

Borneo II

Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes I

Alaska II - Part Two (Nome, Seward & Barrow)

Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier

Alta Floresta & the Pantanal, Brazil

Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands I

Peru's Magnetic North: Spatuletails, Owllet Lodge & More

Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge III

Papua New Guinea I

Jun 1-6

Jun 5-13

Jun 5-15

Jun 6-23

Jun 7-16

Jun 12-22

Jun 13-23

Jun 14-30

Jun 15-25

Jun 27-Jul 6

Jun 28-Jul 7

Jun 30-Jul 22

John Coons

Chris Benesh & Jesse Fagan

Megan Crewe & Pepe Rojas

Dave Stejskal & local guide

Willy Perez

Chris Benesh & Jesse Fagan

Terry McEneaney & John Coons

Marcelo Padua

Willy Perez

Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas

Willy Perez

Phil Gregory & Chris Benesh

"An A+++ experience! An absolutely wonderful 10 days. We were looking for new Field Guides tours to participate in even before this one was done. Thank you to guides Megan Crewe and Chris Benesh and all the behind-the-scenes personnel." B.M., Colorado Grouse

JULY 2013

The Norwegian Arctic: Spitsbergen & the Svalbard Archipelago

Kenya Highlights

Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru I

Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands II

Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon

Mountains of Manu, Peru

Montane Ecuador: Cloudforests of the Andes II

Arizona's Second Spring I

It's Back! Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata

Jul 2-14

Jul 3-21

Jul 5-14

Jul 6-16

Jul 6-17

Jul 13-28

Jul 26-Aug 4

Jul 27-Aug 5

Jul 27-Aug 9

John Coons

Terry Stevenson

Jesse Fagan

George Armistead

Marcelo Padua & Dave Stejskal

Rose Ann Rowlett & Pepe Rojas

Mitch Lysinger

John Coons

Pepe Rojas & Dave Stejskal

Winding down near the pass at Abra Patricia, Peru.
(Photo by guide Rose Ann Rowlett)

AUGUST 2013

Arizona's Second Spring II
Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands III
Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru II
Kenya Safari Spectacular
Slice of California: Seabirds to Sierra
France: Camargue & Pyrenees

Aug 3-12	Chris Benesh
Aug 3-13	Megan Crewe
Aug 8-17	Jesse Fagan
Aug 30-Sep 25	Terry Stevenson
Aug 31-Sep 9	Chris Benesh
Aug 31-Sep 10	Megan Crewe & Jesse Fagan

SEPTEMBER 2013

Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus I
New Caledonia, Fiji & Vanuatu
Carajas: Lower Amazonian Brazil
Morocco
Serra dos Tucanos, Brazil
Bolivia's Avian Riches
Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes II
Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil II
NEW Philadelphia: Cradle of American Birding
Australia (Part I)
NEW Ecuador's Shiripuno Lodge: Heartland of the Waorani
Cape May Megan's Way

Sep 1-14	Bret Whitney & second guide
Sep 2-20	Phil Gregory
Sep 5-14	Marcelo Padua
Sep 6-23	George Armistead & local guide
Sep 7-17	John Rowlett & local guide
Sep 7-22	Dan Lane & Pepe Rojas
Sep 8-22	Willy Perez
Sep 14-27	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Sep 26-29	George Armistead & second guide
Sep 27-Oct 17	Chris Benesh & second guide
Sep 28-Oct 7	Mitch Lysinger & Willy Perez
Sep 29-Oct 5	Megan Crewe

OCTOBER 2013

New Guinea & Australia
NEW Barrow: Search for Ross's Gull
South Africa
Safari Brazil: The Pantanal & More
Australia (Part II)
Northwestern Argentina
Louisiana: Yellow Rails & Crawfish Tails
Chile

Oct 3-21	Phil Gregory
Oct 4-8	George Armistead
Oct 10-Nov 2	Terry Stevenson & local guide
Oct 12-28	Marcelo Padua
Oct 15-30	John Coons & Jesse Fagan
Oct 16-Nov 3	Dave Stejskal & Willy Perez
Oct 24-28	Dan Lane & second guide
Oct 27-Nov 16	Peter Burke

"We enjoyed every minute of the tour!
Dave Stejskal was his usual excellent self.
Willy Perez was an absolute jewel—
extremely knowledgeable plus enthusiastic,
funny, caring, and attentive. We're sure
other clients will love him as much as we
did!" D. & A. H., Ecuador: Rainforest & Andes

NOVEMBER 2013

Spectacular Southeast Brazil (Part I)
New Zealand
Northern Peru: Endemics Galore
Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion
Spectacular Southeast Brazil (Part II)
East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania
Holiday at San Isidro, Ecuador

Nov 1-17	Bret Whitney & second guide
Nov 2-20	Dan Lane & local guide
Nov 3-23	Richard Webster & Pepe Rojas
Nov 9-Dec 5	Phil Gregory & Megan Crewe
Nov 15-Dec 2	Bret Whitney & Marcelo Padua
Nov 16-Dec 6	Terry Stevenson
Nov 22-Dec 2	Mitch Lysinger

"An excellent overall experience! Guides John
Coons and Jesse Fagan are skillful in the field
with great personalities. They also prepared
outstanding field breakfasts and lunches.
Your office service was very, very responsive,
patient, and pleasant. Field Guides tops them
all!" M.G., Australia

DECEMBER 2013

Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista I
It's Back! Holiday in Peru: Iquitos — Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests
Arizona Winter Specialties
Panama's Canopy Lodge at El Valle
Holiday Costa Rica: Rancho Naturalista II
Holiday in Honduras: The Lodge at Pico Bonito

Dec 19-27	Jesse Fagan & local guide
Dec 21-Jan 1	Pepe Rojas & Dan Lane
Dec 27-Jan 1	Dave Stejskal
Dec 28-Jan 4	Chris Benesh
Dec 28-Jan 5	Megan Crewe & local guide
Dec 29-Jan 3	John Coons & local guide



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CONSERVATION Field Guides contributes to the following conservation organizations: The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, BirdLife International, Population Biology Foundation/Yanacocha Biological Station



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Stylin' in the Field — Cap backwards like Marcelo or forwards like Willy?

Popular new guides **Marcelo Padua** (at left) and **Willy Perez** (right) have been very busy in the field. Marcelo's clearly got "the Kingfisher"—aka John Coons, here admiring Iguazu Falls with Marcelo on the *Brazil Nutshell* tour—going with the flow in Brazil...we hardly know Kingfisher with his cap backwards! Willy and "the Grebe"—aka Rose Ann Rowlett, here enjoying a laugh with Willy on their *Jewels of Ecuador* tour—on the other hand are sticking to the traditional bill-forward. Whatever your pref, you'll have a lot of fun (and some terrific birding) out in the field with either Willy or Marcelo on upcoming tours to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. And of course you already know all about John and Rose Ann!



Photos by participants Bruce Sorrie, Elena LaBorde, and Phil Lauver.

